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ABSTRACT

The need for veterinarians and the capacity of the South for providing veterinary medical education are examined. Summarized are eight current veterinary medical education programs in the region and planned developments in education (in Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, and Arkansas). Projected are the effects of the possible developments on availability of veterinary services and on opportunities to study veterinary medicine, and the costs of possible new schools. (BD)

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A CURRENT OVERVIEW OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE SOUTH:

A Staff Report

to the Southern Regional Education Board

June 1978

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ADDENDUM TO

A CURRENT OVERVIEW

OF VFTERINARY MEDICAL EDUCATION

IN THE SOUTH:

A Staff Report

to the Southern Regional Education Board

Pages 7-8 of the report speak of consideration by the State of North Carolina of a school of veterinary medicine.

Since the issuance of the report the North Carolina legislature on June 16 adopted a budget for 1978-79 which adds $7.25 million to the $2 million previously appropriated for a new school. Based on this action, North Carolina State University will proceed with architectural planning and site preparation for the school. It is expected that the 1979 legislature will be asked for about $20 million more.

It is anticipated that the school will enroll students in 1981.

A CURRENT OVERVIEW OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE SOUTH

A Staff Report to the Southern Regional Education Board

June 1978

Introduction

In 1974 at its annual business meeting, the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) discussed and acted on a report from its special committee on veterinary medical education, which assessed the capacity of the region for providing such training, summarized planned developments in education for this specialty, projected the effect of the possible developments on availability of veterinary services and on opportunity to study veterinary medicine, and made recommendations about expanding the region's capacity in veterinary medicine.

The Board approved the report, stipulating that it believed that, in addition to the schools at Auburn University, the University of Florida, the University of Georgia, Louisiana State University, Tuskegee Institute, and Texas A&M University, a maximum of two new schools could adequately meet the needs of the region. It was recommended also that states without schools attempt to resolve among themselves which one or two of them would develop a new veterinary medicine school, the state or states thus determined to move swiftly to open a regional school.

Since the June 1974 Board action, two new schools have been developed--at the University of Tennessee and at Mississippi State University. In addition, planning continues on at least three additional schools in the region.

The demand of students for opportunity to study veterinary medicine is high and numerous qualified applicants cannot be accommodated. While it is unfortunate to turn down qualified students, it would be imprudent, as noted in the 1974 SREB report, to consider student demand as an isolated factor. As with any profession that provides rewards of financial stability and societal esteem to its members, desire to enter the field may at times exceed both societal needs as well as opportunities for satisfying and rewarding professional practice.

In December 1977, after reviewing developments in veterinary medical education in the region, the Executive Committee voted that the 1974 SREB report on the status of veterinary medical education in the region be updated and furnished to states.

Need for Veterinarians

In 1975 four Soutnern veterinary medicine schools graduated about 350 Doctors of Veterinary Medicine (DVMs). By 1981 about 630 DVMs should be graduating from the eight existing schools. And as the new schools develop to full size, this total for the South should be more than 700 DVMs a year by 1985 or so--about twice the number for 1975. At that rate, in a decade alone, the region will graduate over 7,000 DVMs.

If two additional schools now being considered are constructed, and if the Mississippi State University school is expanded to an annual class size of 80, the output of 700 DVMs from the present schools will be increased during

the 1980s by 175, to a total of 875, 250 percent of the 1975 level. Over a decade, Southern schools will produce over 10,000 DVMs.

In a report on "Law, Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine: Issues in Supply and Demand" to be released by SREB in June 1978, Eva C. Galambos discusses veterinary medical supply and demand. The most generally accepted yardstick for measuring need for veterinarians continues to be the 1972 report of the National Academy of Sciences committee on veterinary medical education and research (Terry Report). This extensive analysis arrived at total requirements for veterinarians based on calculations for each veterinary specialty. That total is 42,000 for the year 1980, or 18.9 veterinarians per 100,000 population in the United States.

In 1970 the ratio of veterinarians to population was only 12.7 in the United States and 11.6 in the South. By 1974 the supply had risen to 13.6 in the nation and 12.6 in the South. According to the "medium" estimate of HEW's Health Resources Administration (HRA), the national supply by 1985 is projected at 41,100 or 17.6 per 100,000 population. This estimate includes graduates from the new school at Louisiana State University but not the graduates of Southern schools established later, such as those at the University of Florida, Mississippi State University, and the University of Tennessee, nor of other new schools in the nation, such as Tufts.

Since almost all of the expansion in veterinary medical spaces has occurred in Southern states, the South's share of the total production in the United

will move from 25 percent in 1971 to 32 percent in 1985. Thus, even the conservative HRA projection, which does not include three Southern schools, indicates that the nation will be supplied with very nearly the number of veterinarians needed in 1985 according to the Terry Report, and the South will be producing its share of the total in terms of its population, which is 31 percent of the nation.

This is not to say that the need for each veterinary specialty will be met in 1985. As in other health fields, severe geographical and specialty maldistributions can persist in spite of saturation in terms of total needs. Thus, small animal practice, which in 1970 accounted for 36 percent of the veterinarians in the South, now accounts for 52 percent; the percentage in large animal practice has declined slightly, from 15 to 14 percent over the same 8 years. As Dr. Galambos concludes, "If the experience in human medicine is to be any guide as to what will happen in veterinary medicine as supply is expanded, oversaturation of supply in metropolitan areas will not lead to rapid dispersion of veterinarians to rural areas or to food animal practices. Although supply and demand forces may eventually have the effect of dispersing the veterinarian supply, additional incentives may be needed in the meantime to spur the process."

Current Veterinary Medical Education Programs in the Region

The South has eight colleges of veterinary medicine, and development of two or three more in the region is under active consideration.

Five of the existing schools make spaces available to out-of-state students under the SREB regional contract program. The school at Texas A&M University serves only Texas residents. The new school at the University of Tennessee will admit its first quota of five regional students in 1979 and increase the quota by five each year to a total of 20 spaces.

The school at Mississippi State University opened in 1977 with a small class of 24 Mississippi residents. Recent discussions consider a class of at least 80. Last year the Mississippi legislature earmarked $14.9 million for the first phase of construction of the school. In early 1978 the legislature was asked for a sufficient share of the state's federal revenue sharing funds for the second and third construction phases of the school, and in March 1978 the legislature allocated $9.5 million for the second phase.

The following table shows the entering class size and entering regional quotas of each of the Southern schools:

	1979 Entering Class Size	1979 Entering Regional Quota
Auburn University	115	57
University of Florida	80	15
University of Georgia	86	26
Louisiana State University	80	24
Mississippi State University 1/	44	--
University of Tennessee 2/	80	5
Texas A&M University	138	--
Tuskegee Institute	60	37
	683	164

1/ See page 10 for possible additional expansion of Mississippi school.
2/ Will increase + 5 a year in 1980, 1981, and 1982 for a total of 20.

Under the regional program, states without schools will enroll residents in the above-listed institutions as follows:

	In Entering Class Fall 1979	In All Classes Fall 1979
Arkansas	19	71
Kentucky	27	106
Maryland	24	92
North Carolina	33	128
South Carolina	17	63
Virginia	28	105
West Virginia	10	34
	158*	600

Several SREB states have other arrangements with veterinary schools outside the region. Under these arrangements and also through independent application, 31 residents of seven SREB states are enrolled this year in out-of-the region schools: 20 in Ohio State University; three in Oklahoma State University; three in the University of Missouri; two in Kansas State University; two in Michigan State University; and one in Cornell University.

Fees. Under the regional contract program, a user state pays the admitting institution $5,500 for each regional student. This is a fee for service which is reviewed every two years and adjusted if necessary to make sure that it is reasonable in view of changing costs.

Consideration of Additional Schools in the Region

Several states are considering new schools or other avenues to increased access to veterinary programs.

* In addition, three states with schools have continued entering quotas of two each in Tuskegee Institute.

Kentucky. In late 1975 the Kentucky Council on Higher Education urged continued participation in the regional contract program, the use of veterinary technicians, and a cooperative arrangement with a school of veterinary medicine. Kentucky is considering a cooperative arrangement with Auburn University under which the state would provide clinical training sites in Kentucky. The expected results would be extended veterinary medical services and the schooling of Kentucky residents within the state for a portion of their training.

In early 1978 the governor's budget proposed $3 million for renovation and for expansion of services at animal diagnostic laboratories at Hopkinsville and Lexington, recently transferred from the state agriculture department to Murray State University and the University of Kentucky.

North Carolina. In North Carolina there are plans for a $31 million school at North Carolina State University and an entering class of 72 in 1982. The 1975 General Assembly appropriated $500,000 for fiscal year 1976-77 for planning and development of the school and for a related facility at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University.

This planning led to a budget request to the 1977 General Assembly for $9.? million for the first phase of construction. These funds would enable opening of the school in 1981, provided that other capital funds of about $25 million were available in the 1981-83 biennium. Operating funds were requested to permit appointment of faculty and staff, looking for an opening class of 32 in 1981.

The 1977 General Assembly appropriated $1 million to continue planning and $2 million as a reserve fund for later construction of a school, which means that an initial class could not be enrolled in the fall of 1981. Further planning awaits possible additional legislative action when the General Assembly convenes in May 1978 to consider a budget for 1978-79.

Virginia. For several years the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia had withheld approval of a proposal by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI&SU) for a school of veterinary medicine. In December 1977 the Council voted to give the University authority to proceed with development of a plan for a school, with certain stipulations: 1) the school must be a regional venture in terms of capital outlay and full (per student) operating costs; 2) federal funds must be available to defray a significant portion of the capital outlay costs; 3) a significant amount of private funds must be available to defray part of the capital outlay costs; 4) the arrangements for cooperative sharing of capital outlay and operating costs must be included in the final proposal for Council approval; 5) the resulting college must provide Virginians with greater veterinary educational opportunities and services than are presently available; and 6) the college must emphasize, in its administration and curriculum, the need for large animal and public practice veterinarians.

In March 1978 the legislature adopted a resolution 1) noting that the Council of Higher Education had authorized VPI&SU to prepare detailed plans for a college of veterinary medicine "subject to certain conditions designed to guarantee regional cooperation for such an extensive undertaking," and

2) urging support for the school under the terms and conditions set by the Council.

The legislature approved an appropriation of $1.25 million--$700,000 for interim clinical facilities and $550,000 for two years' operating costs for a school--subject to the Council stipulations noted above. The appropriation act provides that release of these funds is subject to the approval of the governor, after advising the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee of his intention. Prior to release of the funds the governor is to satisfy himself that the terms and conditions stated by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia in granting planning approval for a school have been met.

One proposal is that satellite training facilities be located in Maryland and West Virginia, constructed with funds provided by those states or the federal government.

VPI&SU proposes an initial class of 40, increasing to 80. The State Council of Higher Education estimates the cost of a new school at $35-50 million; VPI&SU estimates $16 million. The Council estimates operating costs of $6.5 million to $7 million a year, higher than the university's estimate of $5.6 to 6 million. Annual per student cost would be about $14,000 according to the Council, while VPI&SU estimates $11,000.

Maryland. In 1974 the Maryland Council for Higher Education (now the Maryland State Board for Higher Education) recommended against a school of veterinary medicine in Maryland and proposed instead an annual quota of about

25 entering spaces for Maryland in the regional program. The quota rose to 24 in 1977 and will increase moderately over the next few years.

The 1978 legislature considered several measures for a school, including a cooperative venture between VPI&SU and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. It finally adopted a resolution calling for further study of whether Maryland should build a school.

In another development, the Maryland Board in 1977 furnished funds to Johns Hopkins University to study the feasibility of establishing a school of veterinary medicine within the Johns Hopkins University. The report is not yet completed.

West Virginia. Again in 1978 a bill calling for establishment of a school of veterinary medicine was initiated in the Senate, which took no action on it. Another measure authorizing establishment of a regional school with Virginia passed the House but not the Senate. The legislature adjourned with no further action on the matter.

Arkansas. Representatives of the University of Arkansas and Mississippi State University began discussions in 1977 about the possibility of a joint program in veterinary medicine. The arrangement being considered is one in which some facilities would be built in Arkansas to supplement those at Mississippi State University, with the resulting joint school having 100 students, 40 of them from Arkansas. A $6 or $7 million facility at Fayetteville or Little Rock is proposed.

Information on the proposed joint school has been furnished by the University of Arkansas to the press and to the Arkansas Legislative Council, and the matter has been referred to the Joint Education Committee. Neither the Arkansas Department of Higher Education nor the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning has considered the proposal.

Developments Outside the SREB Region

The federal government has allocated $10 million in construction funds for the Tufts-New England School of Veterinary Medicine, designed to serve six states. Expected to open in 1979, the school will eventually have a class size of 100.

A new school at Oregon State University will admit its first class in 1979.

Several other schools have expanded or plan to do so, including those at Colorado State University, Iowa State University, Washington State University, and the University of Minnesota.

Wisconsin and Minnesota officials have agreed on admission of more Wisconsin students to the Minnesota school, with Wisconsin paying part of the cost of construction of new facilities on the Minnesota campus.

These are only examples. While the growth of veterinary education in the South is more dramatic--a doubling of schools since 1970--there is a large nationwide increase in capacity to graduate DVMs. This total national expansion of capacity should be a factor in the consideration of possible new schools in the region.

Implications for the South of Additional Schools

The eight regional schools will provide to states without schools 153 entering spaces in fall 1978, increasing to 173 by 1982. If one assumes that any new school would provide a class of 80, of whom 20 would be regional students, what would be the effect of proposed new schools in North Carolina and Virginia and of the possible expansion of the Mississippi State school? Under these assumptions one new school will permit the remaining customer states to share in 193 entering spaces, a gain of 54 percent over their fall 1979 quotas.

What would come from two new schools and a fully developed Mississippi State University College? If both North Carolina and Virginia create regional schools, there is a gain of 101 entering regional spaces, through reallocation of the spaces now assigned to these two states in other schools and inclusion of regional spaces in the entering classes of the two new schools. With the two new schools and the Mississippi State University at a full class of 80, the five contracting states, Arkansas, Kentucky, Maryland, South Carolina, and West Virginia, will share in 233 entering spaces, an increase of 144 percent over their fall 1979 spaces.

Costs of Possible New Schools

Building and operating a school of veterinary medicine requires substantial funding and can be particularly costly to a state in the absence of federal construction funds and capitation grants for operating costs. An SREB study in 1971 placed the construction cost of a school for 60 to 80 students a class at

$20 to 24 million and the operating budget at $2.5 to 3.5 million a year, figures that are now out of date.

A 1972 study estimated that the University of Tennessee school with an 80-student class would cost $18 million, plus 8 to 10 percent more for each year after 1974, and an operating cost of $2.7 million a year (later increased to $5 million a year).

The 1974 estimate for a Florida school with a class of 80 was $25 million in capital outlay and $5.5 million a year to operate.

North Carolina officials presented to their 1977 legislature an estimate of $37 million for construction and $5 million for annual operations.

With this record of the increasing cost of a school of veterinary medicine, some of the current institutional estimates for new schools are surprisingly low, usually considerably below those of state higher education agencies and other observers.

There is considerable doubt about significant federal construction support. In 1973 the Louisiana State University school received over $10 million in a federal construction grant for a regional school. Since then new schools at Mississippi State University, the University of Florida, and the University of Tennessee have been constructed with state money. North Carolina officials assume that the planned $37 million school there will have to be financed by state monies without federal help.

In late 1977 the Health Resources Administration of HEW made modest grants to help some schools expand: $1 million to Tuskegee Institute,

$5 million to the University of Pennsylvania, and $10 million to be divided among Washington State University, Oregon State University, and the University of Idaho for expansion of a cooperative training venture.

The President's budget for FY79 takes the view that in veterinary medicine, optometry, pharmacy, and podiatry the problem is not production of manpower but its distribution. The budget, thus, has no construction money for these fields. There may be Congressional amendments, but planning new veterinary schools on the assumption of federal construction funds would seem questionable at this time.

A related new development is Public Law 95-113, the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Policy Act of 1977, which authorizes Department of Agriculture grants to states on a 50:50 matching basis to establish or expand schools of veterinary medicine. Preference would go to schools that have established (or made a reasonable effort to establish) a cooperative training program with one or more states without veterinary medicine schools and that have established a clinical training program emphasizing care and treatment of food-producing animals.

The legislation only authorizes these activities. No funds have been appropriated, and the timetable for considering funding is uncertain, with no particular prospects even for fiscal 1979.

Federal assistance for the health professions, including veterinary medicine, has been and remains a primary concern of HEW, especially of the Health Resources Administration. The emergence of a prospective Department of

Agriculture construction program for a single health field, veterinary medicine, is understood to be as a result of an effort for special one-time assistance for desired veterinary medical schools in one or two states.

It is also important to note some federal intent to close out capitation grants to schools of veterinary medicine, which are now $694 per student. The President's 1979 budget omits capitation grants in veterinary medicine, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, and podiatry. The budget cuts capitation grants for medicine, osteopathy, and dentistry by a third of their 1978 total. While there will be legislative efforts to restore some of these, the implication is that the capitation monies, intended to encourage production of more health personnel, have served their essential purpose. When federal capitation money is no longer available, it will have to be replaced by increased tuition or state appropriations, unless school budgets are reduced.

Summary

There have been large increases in the training capacity for veterinarians outside the South and very substantial increases in the region--from four schools in 1970 to eight now and active consideration of three more. There is good expectation that within the 1980s the national goals of an adequate supply of veterinarians, established by the National Academy of Science committee on veterinary medical education and research, will be met through existing schools.

The South with eight schools will be graduating more than its share of DVMs in the 1980s, about 700 by 1985, twice the number of 1975. The creation

of additional schools in the region during the 1980s will, of course, greatly add to these figures.

The cost of building and operating a school of veterinary medicine is substantial and is increasing despite some current estimates. There is doubt about availability of significant federal construction support and continuation of federal capitation money.

Since the 1974 recommendation by the Southern Regional Education Board that a maximum of two new schools be developed to serve the region, two schools have been created, and there is active consideration of more schools. The expense of additional schools and the question of need for them are reasons for continuous evaluation of developments in the region in this field.